

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AGRE-00 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-08 AF-08 ARA-06
EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 COME-00 ISO-00 TRSE-00 L-03 OIC-02
/081 W

-----092355Z 113045 /75

R 091540Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2670
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION OECD PARIS

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, FAO

SUBJECT: DOCUMENTATION FOR FOURTH SESSION OF THE FAO'S INTER-
GOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON TEA MEETING IN LONDON, FEBRUARY 14-25, 1977

REF: ROME 0716

1. THE UK IS STILL APPROACHING THE FAO INTERGOVERNMENTAL
GROUP ON TEA WITH QUOTE CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM QUOTE.
AN FAO EXPERT HAS JUST BEEN TO WEST AFRICA AND FOUND THE
KENYANS A LITTLE LESS HOSTILE TO AN INTERNATIONAL TEA
AGREEMENT. THE KENYANS WERE SAID TO NO LONGER OPPOSE THE
POSSIBILITY OF AN INTERNATIONAL TEA AGREEMENT IF PRICES
FALL. UNFORTUNATELY AS OF A WEEK AGO THEY HADN'T YET
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BOTHERED TO STUDY THE LATEST FAO PROPOSALS FOR A STAND-
BY AGREEMENT SO NO SPECIFIC RESPONSE COULD BE OBTAINED ON
THE CURRENT DRAFT PROPOSALS.

2. THE FAO HAS PUBLISHED ITS CURRENT SITUATION AND
SHORT-TERM OUTLOOK FOR TEA (CCP: TE 77/6) WHICH WILL
BE DISTRIBUTED AT THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON TEA

IN LONDON, FEBRUARY 21. THE REPORT NOTES THE STRONG PRICE PERFORMANCE OF TEA IN 1976, UP 32 PERCENT, AND THAT THIS TREND HAS CONTINUED IN 1977 WITH NEW RECORD PRICES IN LONDON. PRODUCTION IN 1976 IS ALSO UP DESPITE DROUGHT IN SOME PRODUCTING AREAS. GIVEN NORMAL WEATHER, PRODUCTION SHOULD CONTINUE TO INCREASE IN 1977. THE FAO PREDICTS STRONG DEMAND FOR TEA IN THE SHORT TERM, BUT NOTES SUPPLY AND DEMAND ARE DELICATELY BALANCED WHICH MAY LEAD TO GREAT PRICE FLUCTUATIONS.

3. THE FAO WILL BE REPRESENTED BY MR. DUTIA AT THE LONDON TEA MEETING. MULHERIN IS RECOVERING NICELY FROM HIS HEART ATTACK, BUT DECIDED NOT TO GO TO LONDON. MULHERIN AND DUTIA ARE VERY INTERESTED IN THE U.S. POSITION ON TEA TO SEE IF OUR BEGIN QUOTE STRONG OP- POSITION TO AN INTERNATIONAL TEA AGREEMENT END QUOTE HAS ABATED OR BEEN OVERTAKEN BY NEW COMMODITY POLICIES.BEAUDRY

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 09-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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